

(a) whether the witness allowance given in public criminal cases was fixed since long and is less:

(b) whether due to shortage of allocations of funds payment is not made to the witness quickly as a result of which Adivasi Harijan witnesses could not come to courts;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the witness allowance given in public criminal cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M.JACOB): (a) to (d) : Payment to witnesses for the purpose of attending court proceedings is made by the State Governments on the orders of the criminal courts. The matter is regulated by rules made by the State Governments themselves under section 312 of the Code of Criminal procedure, 1973.

[English]

### **Acquaculture In Maharashtra**

5859. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated length of the area suitable for acquaculture in Maharashtra;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the development of acquaculture in the State so far; and

(c) the areas brought under acquaculture in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Water resources suitable for aquaculture in Maharashtra are :-

- (i) Tanks and Ponds - 98,000 ha.
- (ii) Brackish water areas - 80,000 ha.

(b) Some of the Important steps taken by the Government of India are :-

- (i) Under the Centrally Sponsored scheme, Development of Aquaculture Fish Farmers Development agencies sanctioned in 29 districts out of 30 districts in the State to take up fresh water aquaculture development;
- (ii) Four Brackish water Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDA) have been sanctioned in the state to undertake development of shrimp farming,
- (iii) shrimp seed hatchery of 20 million capacity and a shrimp culture demonstration farm have also been sanctioned in the State for production of shrimp seed and demonstration of shrimp farming to the farmers respectively;
- (iv) In addition to these, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce, have established a Regional Centre at Alibagh to extend technical and financial assistance for shrimp farming in the state.

(c): The areas brought under aquaculture during the last three years are:-

- (i) Through FFDAS - 1934 ha.
- (ii) Through MPEDA - 127.35 ha.